PLANT FACT SHEET

Dendrobium canaliculatum R. Brown

GENUS *Dendrobium* **FAMILY** Orchidaceae

COMMON NAMES Tree orchid, Antelope Orchid, Onion orchid, Tea-tree Orchid

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Pseudo-bulb, Stem

The bulb like stem is cooked and eaten.

DESCRIPTION

An orchid which grows attached to other plants. It grows in clumps. It is 20-30 cm high. The false bulbs are short, thick and fleshy. They are 3-12 cm long. The leaves are smooth, thick and fleshy and long and narrow. They are deeply grooved along the upper surface. They are 10-20 cm long by 0.5-1.2 cm wide. Between 2 and 6 leaves occur at the top of the false bulb. They are dark green. The flower have twisted petals which are greenish white flecked with purple green or brown spots. The lower petal is white, tipped with purple and is 3 lobed. The flowers are 1-2 cm long by 1.5 cm across. Between 10 and 40 flowers occur in a cluster which is 10-30 cm long and on a long stalk. The flowers have a smell. The fruit is a capsule. The plant varies a lot in the different areas where it grows.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows attached to paperbark trees. It is mostly in lowland swamps and coastal flood plains. They suit areas with bright light but humid conditions. It is very cold sensitive. It must have a temperature above 10°C. It occurs in southern Papua New Guinea. It grows in areas with a seasonal dry condition. It cannot grow in soggy conditions. It suits hardiness zones 11-12.

PRODUCTION

Cultivation

Plants can be grown from seed. It can be grown in a good, well drained soil or potting medium.

Harvesting and Seed Production

In Australia flowering occurs June to October and fruiting in November.

NOTES

There are about 900-1200 Dendrobium species orchids.

REFERENCES

Brock, J., 1993, Native Plants of Northern Australia, Reed. p 135

Cundall, P., (ed.), 2004, Gardening Australia: flora: the gardener's bible. ABC Books. p 478

Elliot, W.R., & Jones, D.L., 1984, Encyclopedia of Australian Plants suitable for cultivation. Vol 3. Lothian. p 220

Greig, D., 1996, Flowering Natives for Home Gardens. Angus & Robertson. p 137

Hibbert, M., 2002, The Aussie Plant Finder 2002, Florilegium. p 84

Hinton, B & B., 1982, A Wilderness in Bloom. Wildflowers of tropical Australia. p 7

Holliman, J., (Ed.), 2002, Orchids. Botanica's Pocket. Random House, Australia. p 187

Maiden, J. H., 1889, The Useful Native Plants of Australia (including Tasmania). The Technology Museum of NSW, Sydney. p 22

Ratcliffe D & P., 1987, Australian Native Plants for Indoors. Little Hills press. p 79

Scarth-Johnson, V., 2000, National Treasures. Flowering Plants of Cooktown and Northern Australia. Vera Scarth-Johnson Gallery Association. Cooktown, Australia. p 151

Staples, G.W. and Herbst, D.R., 2005, A tropical Garden Flora. Bishop Museum Press, Honolulu, Hawaii. p 722

PROVIDED BY **Food Plants International**

French, B.R. & Maynard, A.R. Food Plants International Database. Food Plants International

LICENCE CC BY-NC-SA 3.0

ONLINE FACT SHEET https://www.echocommunity.org/en/resources/1afbbf85-99f5-45d1-a927-606844ae9b00